About Aristotle’s Comedy – **Key or study guide**

**Refer to handouts “Aristotle on Comedy” and “Comedy and Tragedy”**

**Origins**

* a celebration of human sexuality and triumph of eros (love).
* origin is probably in phallic (look it up in the dictionary) rituals (ceremonies) and festivals (celebrations)for the gods.
* not considered appropriate for young people still developing their sense of right and wrong behavior.
* appropriate audiences included only adult males whose morals made them immune (cannot hurt) to harmful effects
* not taken as seriously as tragedy (not given as much importance)
* early comedies were often satirical lampoons (made fun of), invective (insulting), slanderous (possibly gossip and lies), indecent and obscene.
* later works had less direct negative imitations of people and transitioned (changed) to more innuendos (suggestive) and subtlety (implied).

**Plot**

* the rise in fortune (luck, love and money) of a sympathetic (likeable) protagonist (main character, hero).
* exploits (experiences) of ordinary (plain, regular) people.
* deviated (did not follow) from social and ethical norms(what was appropriate by cultural rules), deliberately used moral “badness”(such as lying cheating and stealing).
* contained laughable (funny) errors or disgrace (mistakes and embarrassments) that did not cause pain.
* did **NOT** have to be funny.
* events can be loosely connected in accordance (agrees with) necessity and probability

**Characters**

* Protagonist may be a likeable rogue (dishonest or unprincipled), a fun-loving scamp (mischievous), a plucky underdog (expected to be a loser), or anyone with a disadvantaged background.
* about people considered to be inferior (not “as good as”) or ordinary of average or below average status (social level) such as peasants (poor people) or slaves.
* often plain stock characters (flat and static) that were stereotypes, often being mentally or physically challenged.

**Setting**

* NOT battlefield or palaces, but maybe the bedroom or bathroom.
* **always** had a happy ending – the most important characteristic

**Three Kinds of Comedy:**

* Farce - crazy and exaggerated characters and events
* Romantic - love stories
* Satire – stories that may be real people OR an event of a political or social nature
  + characters may be cynical(doubts, expects the bad), foolish or morally corrupt ( lied, stolen or cheated, etc.)
  + focusing on human vice (bad behavior) and folly (mistakes)
  + often used to make fun of or to make a statement about something in society without saying it directly

**About Aristotle’s Comedy**

**Refer to handouts “Aristotle on Comedy” and “Comedy and Tragedy”**

**Origins**

* a celebration of human s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and triumph of e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (love).
* origin is probably in p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (look it up in the dictionary) r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (ceremonies) and f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (celebrations)for the gods.
* not considered appropriate for y\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people still developing their sense of right and wrong b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* appropriate audiences included only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(grown up) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ whose morals made them \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (cannot hurt)to harmful effects
* not taken as s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as tragedy (not given as much importance)
* early comedies were often s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (made fun of), i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (insulting), s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (possibly gossip and lies), i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (vulgar) and o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (sexual conduct).
* later works had less direct negative imitations of people and transitioned (changed) to more i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (suggestive) and s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (implied).

**Plot**

* the rise in f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (luck, love and money) of a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (likeable) p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (main character, hero).
* e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (experiences) of o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (plain, regular) people.
* d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (did not follow) from social and e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (what was appropriate by cultural rules), deliberately used moral “b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”(such as lying cheating and stealing).
* contained laughable (funny) e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (mistakes and embarrassments) that did not cause p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* did **NOT** have to be f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* events can be l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ connected in accordance (agrees with) n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Characters**

* Protagonist may be a likeable r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (dishonest or unprincipled), a fun-loving s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (mischievous), a plucky u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (expected to be a loser), or anyone with a d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ background.
* about people considered to be i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not “as good as”) or ordinary of average or below average s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (social level) such as peasants (poor people) or slaves.
* often plain s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ characters (flat and static) that were s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, often being m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Setting**

* NOT battlefield or palaces, but maybe the b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* **always** had a happy e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – the most i\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ characteristic

**Three Kinds of Comedy:**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - crazy and exaggerated characters and events
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - love stories
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – stories that may be real people OR an event of a political or social nature
  + characters may be c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (doubts, expects the bad), foolish or morally c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ( lied, stolen or cheated, etc.)
  + focusing on human v\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (bad behavior) and f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (mistakes)
  + often used to make f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of or to make a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(opinion) about something in s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (community) without saying it directly

**Word Bank**

**You will not use all the words.**

adult

badness

bathroom

bedroom

behavior

challenged

corrupt

cynical

deviated

disadvantaged

disgrace

ending

eros

errors

ethical

exploits

farce

festivals

folly

fortune

fun

funny

immune

important

indecent

inferior

innuendos

invective

lampoons

level

loosely

love

main

males

mask

mentally

morally

necessity

needless

norms

obscene

ordinary

pain

phallic ritual

physically

probability

protagonist

rare

ridiculous

rogue

romantic

rule

satire

satirical

scamp

seriously

sexuality

slanderous

society

statement

status

stereotypes

stock

subtle

subtlety

sympathetic

underdog

unequivocally

universality

vexed

vice

viral

virtue

vulgar

yeast

yield

yoke

young

**Vocabulary**

|  |
| --- |
| corrupt |
| cynical |
| deviated |
| disadvantaged |
| disgrace |
| ethical |
| exploits |
| farce |
| festivals |
| folly |
| immune |
| indecent |
| inferior |
| innuendos |
| invective |
| lampoons |
| necessity |
| norms |
| obscene |
| ordinary |
| phallic |
| probability |
| ritual |
| rogue |
| satire |
| satire |
| satirical |
| scamp |
| sexual conduct |
| sexuality |
| slanderous |
| society |
| statement |
| status |
| stereotypes |
| stock character |
| subtle |
| underdog |
| vice |